Harnessing of Tidal Energy in the Gulf of Kachh and Cambay

201. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in the schemes to harness tidal energy in the Gulf of Kachh and the Gulf of Cambay on the coast of Gujarat; and

(b) whether any agreement in this regard has been signed with any foreign country during the recent foreign trip of our Prime Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) The field investigations and data collection for Tidal Power Project in the Gulf of Kachh have almost been completed. Analysis of data and civil and electrical engineering studies for techno-economic feasibility of the project are under progress.

The investigations and studies for Gulf of Cambay have not been initiated as yet.

(b) No, Sir.

Setting up of Gas-Based Power Plants in Gujarat

202. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Gujarat Government for the setting up of a gas-based power plant in that State; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) and (b) Government have decided to set up a gas-based thermal station at Kawas in Gujarat. The project will be implemented by National Thermal Power Corporation in the Central sector. It will have a capacity of about 360 MW.

Central assistance for Teesta Barrage Project in West Bengal

203. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure so far incurred in the construction of the proposed Teesta barrage project in West Bengal;

(b) what total financial assistance, has so far been given by the Centre to the West Bengal Government for this project; and

(c) the reasons for which sufficient Central assistance is not being-given?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The total expenditure incurred up to March, 1985 on Teesta Barrage Project under construction in West Bengal is Rs. 178.44 crores.

(b) A special Central assistance of Rs. 5.00 crores for Teesta Barrage Project was released to the West Bengal Government during 1983-84.

(c) Irrigation projects are to be funded and executed by the State Governments from their Plan resources inclusive of the general Central assistance which is given to the State as a whole and which is not tied to any particular sector of development or project.

Tamluk-Digha Railway Line

204. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state what are the reasons for delay in clearance of the proposed Tamluk-Digha railway line from the Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRO SCINDIA): The Tamluk-Board Gauge Rail Link Digha Project was provisionally included in the Budget for 1984-85 at an anticipated cost of Rs. 43.72 crores subject to formal clearance of the Planning

Commission. The Planning Commission have not cleared the project in view of severe constraint of resources and heavy commitments already in hand. Even after reconsidering the request from the Railways the Planning Commission have observed that they see no reason for changing their views.

Proposed Budge Budge-Namkhana Line

205. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when Government approved the proposed Budge Budge-Namkhana Railway line in the Sunderbans, West Bengal;

(b) what are the details in this regard including estimated cost; and

(c) what is the total amount allotted for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) This project which includes Lakshmikantpur-Kulpi link was provisionally included in the Supplementary Budget for 1981-82, after necessary consultation with the Planning Commission, subject to their formal clearance after detailed examination of the Survey Report. The Planning Commission have not so far cleared the project.

Target fixed for village electrification in the country

206. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed a target for rural electrification for the entire country for the next three years; and

(b) if so, the State-wise break up of the figures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Meeting of Joint Rivers Commission between India and Bangladesh

207. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY:
SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Joint Rivers Commission meeting was held between India and Bangladesh in June, 1985; and

(b) if so, what are the main feature of the discussions held and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) A meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission was held during June, 1985 in Dhaka. During this meeting, discussions were held on (i) sharing of Teesta waters, (ii) problem of embankments and river training works on common|border rivers; and (iii) the utilisation of waters of small common|border rivers. The talks were adjourned for resumption in New Delhi at an early date.

खण्डवा-खरगांव रेलवे लाइन के लिए सर्वेक्षण

208. **श्री प्यारे लाल खंडेलवाल :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या खण्डवा-खरगांव के बीच रेल लाइन के लिए सर्वेक्षण के लिए कोई सर्वेक्षण किया जा रहा है;

(ख) क्या इससे पूर्व भी उक्त रेल लाइन के लिए कोई सर्वेक्षण किया गया था, यदि हां, तो उक्त सर्वेक्षण की रिपोर्ट का ब्यौरा क्या है; और